

Ghost of an American Airman are yet another Irish band from Belfast who just released their debut *Life Under Giants* (Hollywood). Though they deny it, they're a lot closer to U2 than Van Morrison with their lead singer going by a single name -- Dodge.

Dodge has a strong voice, sincere delivery and lets his notes hang in the air a long time Bono-style, but is nowhere near as pompous. They sing about a mess of topics from the fall of the empire to Jack Kerouac, occasionally with a fleck of poetry, but also with a lack of cohesion that makes you wonder if they really know what they're singing about. Standouts are the tunes that flow naturally such as "16 Tons" with nice soulful guitar and "When the Whistle Blows" and "Whipping Boy." But too often they come off as generic with most of the songs leaning heavily towards anthems.

Ghost of An American Airman with Word Circus: Thurs., June 11 at 8 p.m. at the 23 East Cabaret, 896-6420.

--Peter Brown